

#### Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson  
Sen. David Ford  
Sen. Katie Wolf  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson  
Rep. Richard Bodiker  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. William Ruppel



## INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

#### LSA Staff:

Susan Cullen, Attorney for the Committee  
Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date:	August 15, 2000
Meeting Time:	10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place:	Indiana State Fairgrounds, Administration Building Conference Room
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	1

**Members Present:** Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. Katie Wolf; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Richard Bodiker; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. William Ruppel.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Call to Order.** Senator Merritt, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. He gave a brief introduction which was followed by an introduction by each committee member.

**Update on the 2000 Indiana State Fair.** Dr. Gene Sease, Chairman of the Indiana State Fair Commission, welcomed the committee members to the State Fairgrounds. He praised the leadership of Bill Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission, during the past year. He reported that visitors have had many positive comments about the Fair, especially with regard to the cold air / water fans and the hand sanitizers that can be

---

<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

found throughout the Fairgrounds. He reported that the Edy's Grand Hall building which had gone through several renovations had a successful grand opening and that the Exposition Hall, which had also undergone some renovations, is now accessible to handicapped persons. Dr. Sease stated that a new attendance record had been set on Saturday, August 12. He finished by thanking Sunny Sinnamon, President of the Executive Council, for his work on the State Fair Board of Directors. Mr. Sinnamon spoke briefly thanking the Indiana General Assembly for its continued support of the Indiana State Fair.

Bill Stinson introduced the members of the State Fair Board of Directors who were present at the meeting. He stated that the success of the State Fair was due in large part to appropriations made by the General Assembly in 1997 and 1999, and that the General Assembly has continued to play a significant role in the direction of the State Fair. Mr. Stinson announced that the record attendance as of August 12 was due in part to the weather which plays a factor every year, but he commented that it was too early to speculate on record numbers of attendance for the State Fair this year.

Mr. Stinson reported that the Board has had a great deal of cooperation from the State Department of Health with regard to training workers on food handling and preparation. He reported that food concession numbers after the first five days were ahead of those from the same time last year. He also gave an overview of some of the renovations that were completed for the 2000 State Fair. (Exhibit 1)

**Update of the Barn Project.** Betsy Kranz, Executive Director of The Barn, reported that the Normandy Barn is in full use. In May of 2000 a 99 year lease was signed on the South 38th Street site and was approved by the Indiana State Fair Commission. She also reported that the first staff expansion in 5 years took place in June 2000 and that around the same time the Board of Directors for the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage completed its reorganization and has expanded to twenty seven persons.

Ms. Kranz reported that one year ago a strategic plan was completed - it included ideas for children's programs and a focus on agriculture. She said they hope to have a master plan completed by the end of the year. (Exhibit 2)

**HSI Show Productions Presentation.** Stan Hirschfeld, Chairman of the Board, HSI Show Productions, spoke to members of the committee with regard to the Fairground facilities and the needs of the consumer show industry. He started by introducing Todd Jameson, President, HSI Show Productions, to the committee members. Mr. Hirschfeld stated that HSI Show Productions is a 51 year old Indiana corporation that aims to promote and produce consumer shows for the purpose of providing a showcase for ornamental horticulture and various craft products. He stated that exhibitors come from 37 states and Canada and that the Flower and Patio Show which takes place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds is the single most visible event Indiana's ornamental horticulture industry has to showcase its products and talent.

Mr. Hirschfeld commented on the proposed renovations to existing Fairground facilities and then made a proposal for a new facility that would replace the existing West and South pavillions. (Exhibit 3). Senator Ford questioned Mr. Hirschfeld on whether the quoted price of \$29.00 per square foot would result in an "expo ready" facility and he was told that it would. Representative Ruppel asked whether the proposed new facility could be used for livestock and Mr. Jameson assured the Committee that it would be designed for different industries which would include livestock use.

Mr. Jameson reported that the horticulture industry is the fastest growing agricultural industry. He stated that in 2001 the Indiana Flower and Patio Show will expand to more

than 35 gardens in the Expo Hall. The show lasts for 9 days while in most states the average show length is 4 to 5 days.

Mr. Stinson responded to Mr. Hirschfeld's presentation by stressing that the idea to tear down existing facilities and create a new facility had not been presented to nor endorsed by the State Fair Commission, the State Fair Board, or other persons involved in the decision making process. He stated that over the next year there will be renovations made to the cattle barn and that this proposal by Mr. Hirschfeld was simply for discussion purposes since no presentation had been made to the State Fair Board or Commission. He stressed that there were no plans to tear down the existing cattle barn.

**Committee Discussion.** Representative Ruppel commented on an Indianapolis Star article that focused on how many free tickets are given out to the Indiana State Fair Board members. He pointed out that these tickets are minimum reimbursement for the enormous amount of work that the Board members do and the countless hours these members put in before the State Fair begins and after the State Fair ends. Senator Wolf expressed her support for Mr. Stinson's comments to the press with regard to this issue.

With regard to Mr. Hirschfeld's proposal on a new building, Senator Ford commented that a better use of the Fairgrounds could positively serve the state of Indiana. He said that work also needs to be done with the private sector to develop the area outside of the Fairgrounds such as the building of hotels in the area. Representative Pond suggested that if a new building were constructed on the Fairgrounds to replace the existing South and West pavilions it could be called the Cattle Barn. Senator Craycraft expressed his interest in looking more seriously at Mr. Hirschfeld's proposal at a future date.

Discussion followed regarding the possible agenda for the next meeting. It was decided that a September meeting date and agenda would be set in the next few weeks. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.